

have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,992,940 to Dworkin. Claims 4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dworkin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,204,821 to Inui, et al.. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims.

At the outset, Applicants continue to traverse each and every taking of Official Notice in the Office Action, and respectfully request the Examiner to provide support in the prior art for such Notice taking.

RECEIVED**MAR 26 2002****Technology Center 2100****CLAIMS 1 AND 21**

Independent claims 1 and 21 are directed to an arrangement in which a received order for a part from one domain is expanded into its component parts (e.g., sub parts) and an order for each of the expanded component parts is communicated to another domain. Each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line.

On the contrary, Dworkin simply provides an electronic shopping system in which a user may search for a product, view product specifications and, if desired, place an order for the product with a vendor. See Dworkin, Abstract, Figs. 2A and 2B, Col. 4, lines 3-Col. 9, lines 35. Once the user places an order for a product or service at terminal 5, the order is forwarded to the vendor 9a-d. The order placed by the user is not expanded into component parts. That is, the product is not expanded into its component parts, with an order for each component part being communicated to another domain. Thus, Dworkin does not disclose or suggest expanding a received order into its

component parts and communicating an order for each of the expanded component parts to another domain.

Furthermore, the Examiner's reply on page 25, Section 11(A) concerning "domains" still does not address the claimed "domain" language in the claims. For example, claim 1 recites that each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line. The subsystems of Dworkin (e.g., computer 1a, CPU 1, vendors 8a-8d) relied upon by the Examiner to address the claimed "domain" language are unrelated to a working unit on a production or production in general (see above discussion on Dworkin).

Accordingly, claims 1 and 21 and their dependent claims are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 11, 12, 22 AND 23

Independent claims 11, 12, 22 and 23 are directed to an arrangement in which (1) a received order for a part is expanded into its component parts and an order for each of the expanded component parts is communicated to another domain and (2) communication of an order to another domain is stopped in a case where an amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater than a required amount of specific parts.

As discussed above for claims 1 and 21, Dworkin does not disclose or suggest (1) expanding a received order into its component parts or communicating to another domain an order for each of the expanded component parts.

Furthermore, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Dworkin does not disclose or suggest the stopping of communication as noted above, but the Examiner believes and has taken Official Notice that “it would have been logical to stop the order, in case the number of parts available in the inventory is more than the parts required to make/assemble a product.” The Examiner is not relying on “common knowledge in the art or ‘well-known’ prior art,” but rather on impermissible hindsight based on the Applicants’ disclosure. Additionally, the Examiner’s reply on pages 25-27, Section 11(c) is simply a reiteration of the rules on Official Notice taking and does not address the Examiner’s improper Notice taking or the request for the Examiner to provide support in the prior art as to the alleged well-known facts.

Accordingly, claims 11, 12, 22 and 23 and their dependent claims are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 13 AND 16

Independent claims 13 and 16 are directed to an arrangement in which (1) a received order is expanded into its component parts and (2) permission to access ordering information is controlled through control means.

As discussed above for claims 1 and 21, Dworkin does not disclose or suggest expanding and order into its component parts.

Furthermore, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Dworkin does not disclose or suggest control of permission to access ordering information, but the Examiner believes and has taken Official Notice that “it would have been logical to have

means for knowing order(s) received relative to a part by the vendor(s) and the fulfillment of the order/issuance of the ordered part.” (emphasis added) Again, the Examiner is not relying on “common knowledge in the art or ‘well-known’ prior art,” but rather on impermissible hindsight based on the Applicants’ disclosure. Furthermore, the Examiner’s reply on pages 25-27, Section 11(c) is simply a reiteration of the rules on Official Notice taking and does not address the Examiner’s improper Notice taking or the request for the Examiner to provide support in the prior art as to the alleged well-known facts.

Accordingly, claims 13 and 16 and their dependent claims are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CLAIM 24

Independent claim 24 is directed to an arrangement in which (1) a received order is expanded into its component parts and an order for each of the expanded component parts is communicated to another domain and (2) information relating to a part delivery in accordance with an order is inputted in a database.

As discussed above for claims 1 and 21, Dworkin does not disclose or suggest expanding an order for a part into its component parts or communicating to another domain an order for each of the expanded component parts.

Furthermore, Dworkin, as relied upon by the Examiner, does not disclose or suggest input of information relating to a part delivery. The portions of Dworkin relied upon by the Examiner simply show communication between a CPU 1 and a

terminal 5. See e.g., Fig. 1 (1,5), Col. 4, lines 3-4, Office Action page 20. Dworkin is silent as to any input of information relating to “a part delivery” to a database in accordance with an order.

Accordingly, claim 24 and any dependent claims therefrom are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 9 AND 29

Independent claims 9 and 29 are directed to a parts ordering system and a program, respectively, in which a machining plan is devised based on a received order, expansion is performed into each component part according to the machining plan, an order plan is devised for each expanded component part and order is placed according to the order plan.

On the contrary, Inui shows an order issue management system which is different than the above claimed arrangement. The order issue management system of Inui scans a parts master file to extract required data relating to parts to be ordered based on information fed to the system from a production schedule system, a parts information system and a car information system. Thereafter, the order issue managing system issues orders accordingly to a received order managing system. Inui simply does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination of claims 9 and 29.

Moreover, the Examiner may not arbitrarily pick and choose elements from the Inui teaching, absent some suggestion in Inui. For example, the Examiner asserts that the claimed receiving of an order is taught by the received order managing

system 21 of factory 20 (see Office Action page 7). However, the Examiner then asserts that the devising of a machining plan based upon the received order, the performing of expansion, etc. are taught by the subsystems of factory 10. As shown in Fig. 1 of Inui, the factory 20 with system 21 is downstream from factory 10. The Examiner's rejection is simply improper.

Furthermore, as to claim 10, the Examiner's reply on page 24, Section 11(B) still does not address how Inui shows a second domain in a second network performing the above-noted features.

Accordingly, claims 9 and 29 and their dependent claims are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 20 AND 28

Independent claims 20 and 28 are directed to a parts ordering system and method in which information is communicated between a first and second network selectively depending on the importance of secrecy of the information. Communication of information is performed based on the importance of secrecy of the information.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Inui does not disclose or suggest the above-noted arrangement, but the Examiner believes and has taken Official Notice that generally secrecy in information transfer is old and well known. However, the Examiner's Official Notice still does not address, teach or disclose communication of information between a first and second network being performed selectively based on the importance of secrecy of the information. The Examiner also has not provided any

support in the prior art for such teaching or for modifying Inui in the suggested manner. Furthermore, the Examiner's reply on pages 25-27, Section 11(c) is simply a reiteration of the rules on Official Notice taking and does not address the Examiner's improper Notice taking or the request for the Examiner to provide support in the prior art as to the alleged well-known facts.

Accordingly, claims 20 and 28 and their dependent claims are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 30, 33 AND 34

Independent claims 30, 33 and 34 are directed to a parts ordering system and method involving display of an icon for identifying receipt of an order or issuance of an order and data indicating results of receipt of an order or issuance of an order represented by the icon. Again, the Examiner has acknowledged that Inui does not disclose or suggest the above claimed display of the icon and data, but believes and has taken Official Notice that icons and their respective narrative representation(s) is old and well known technique in the computer art.

However, the Examiner's Official Notice still does not address the deficiency in the Inui teaching, namely display of information identifying receipt of an order or issuance of an order and data indicating results of receipt of an order or issuance of an order. The Examiner also has not provided any support in the prior art for such a teaching and for modifying Inui in the suggested manner. Furthermore, the Examiner's reply on pages 25-27, Section 11(c) is simply a reiteration of the rules on Official Notice

taking and does not address the Examiner's improper Notice taking or the request for the Examiner to provide support in the prior art as to the alleged well-known facts.

Accordingly, claims 30, 33 and 34 and their dependent claims are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4457. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.


In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4457. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

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